(v) field formations were given strict instructions not to visit any textile unit unless authorized by the senior officers for a specific task. Field formations were also instructed to condone procedural lapses by the manufacturers and traders unless it was done with an intent to defraud the exchequer.

Agreement on economic ties with China

*33. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister

of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of agreements relating to economic ties between India and China were discussed and signed;

(b) if so, to what extent differences between the two countries on economic ties have been removed;

(c) whether both India and China have agreed to improve economic relations between the two countries and have also decided to help each other on economic development;

(d) if so, whether China has also agreed to provide aid to India for various projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In order to promote trade and economic cooperation, and remove impediments to bilateral trade and investment, both sides have agreed to take necessary steps.

(d) and (e) China has offered buyer's credit from the Chinese EXIM Bank worth US$500 million.

Delay in launching of Varishtha Bima Pension Yojana

†*34. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZIM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the launch of Varishtha Bima Pension Yojana has been unduly delayed;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.